



VOL. XXX.

AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 23, 1862.

NO. 6.

Maine Farmer.

EZEKIEL HOLMES, Editor.

Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

Tanning Materials.

From our observations, and from what we can learn from inquiry of others, there are not half so many hides tanned in Maine as there were thirty years ago. In other words, the tanning business has fallen off one-half in our State within that time. If we are wrong in this estimate, we should be glad to receive correction by a true statement of the facts in the case. We attribute this decrease of the business to the having used up, in a great degree, the material which our tanners used for the purpose, viz., hemlock bark. It was dearth to the tree to be stripped of its bark, and as this tree is of rather slow growth, when the material becomes exhausted in any district it is not quickly or easily replenished. Of course if the main ingredient in the business becomes scarce or exhausted, there are but two things to be done, viz., either curtail the business or seek out some new material that will answer the purpose. The last proposition would involve a good deal of research and experiment. We want to find something that shall be full of astringent matter, and that can be easily and quickly reproduced.

We have no doubt that a careful investigation accompanied with exact experiment would discover such material in abundance among the plants, shrubs or trees that grow abundantly among us. As yet, but little of the kind has been done. A couple of enterprising farmers in the town of China, in this county, some time since were tried by their experiments to add the common sweet fern, gathered when in full leaf and dried, as a very good tanning material. This grows abundantly throughout New England, and is easily reproduced. The leather tanned by means of it appears to be good and durable. We are not aware that any comparative tests between the two articles have ever been had. We have not the least doubt that many other plants or shrubs would be found to make valuable tanning substances. The sweet fern and the sumach are little shrubs, and can be easily propagated and brought to maturity sufficient for this purpose in a few years. Probably the raspberry bush and the hawthorn would also work moderately well in this business if tried.

If, however, we could find some plant that could be raised as easily as oats or other grain, that would be strong in tanning matter, it would be quite an acquisition. The wild geranium or spotted carnage will grow in some parts of the State, and is full of astringent matter or tannin, but whether it could be very easily cultivated we are not able to say. The common gum or clover tree grows more or less abundantly in moist woods, and contains quite a strong astringent principle, but we know of no experiments made with either of them, with a view of ascertaining their value as an aid to the tanner.

We suggest these things at the present time to those who feel an interest in these things, and who are desirous to have the tanning business come up again. Leather is one of the indispensable of life, and we should be glad to see the tanneries of Maine flourish as they used to formerly, and who could find some material that could be used to bring this about would be a public benefactor.

Muscadine Grape Vines.

We have received from Mr. P. Stewart of West Gloucester, some specimens of wine manufactured by him from the Muscadine grape. The wine is of excellent flavor and purity, and requires only a little age to make it equal to some of the most popular foreign vintages. We much prefer this flavor to the Catawba, and should think that for family use, for the sick, for the communion, and for the table, it would readily take the place of the stuffs, and be as good as the Muscadine, as they have been thoroughly tested at the State Fair, in New York.

I am also now engaged trying to produce new and improved varieties of winter wheat, that will flourish in this climate. For a test, last fall I sowed a little the 1st of September, the 20th, the 1st of October, and the 20th, and shall be able by this time to determine which is the best, the wheat that comes up before winter, or that which comes up in the ground, and stands in the spring. Should it be agreeable to the Farmer I may hereafter give the result of some of these experiments, hoping they may prove of value to the farming community.

We shall be glad to hear from friend Stewart in reference to his experiments.

Maine Potatoes.

The absence of the potato rot for the last two years is again bringing Maine up in "potato line." The sales of this root since the last digging have been something as they used to be in days of yore, when the rot was unknown among us, and all we had to do to raise potatoes was to roll one into the ground in the spring, and roll out twenty or thirty of its children in the fall. We wish we could ascertain the exact number of bushes that have already been shipped from our sea ports since the last harvest.

The Bangor Courier says that 155,000 bushels have been shipped from that port alone since September. These were sold at 40 cents per bushel, and therefore the sales amount to \$58,000. Portland, Bath, Wiscasset, Belfast, and the other ports east of them, all ship more or less of knowing. We have asserted, and are sure that the surplus of the potato crop alone will more than pay the increase of the State tax occasioned by the war, and yet there are those who want to shut down the treasury gate, and cut off all State encouragement to agriculture.

Galloway Cattle.

There has been some partial attempts to introduce the Scottish Galloway or hornless cattle into Maine, it being thought that they were well adapted to the climate, being hardy and good feeders. In England they are considered to be excellent graziers, and to produce the best quality of beef. In Canada West they are increasing in numbers and in reputation.

The objection made to them in Maine is that they are too small and not saleable in the market on account of their not producing beef enough to pay their cost of feeding. Both of these opinions are erroneous. The English are allowed to be the best judges in the world of the capacity of cattle to fatten, and of the quality of the beef when fattened, and with them the Galloways, as we have said before, are considered A. No. 1, both for ease in fattening and for best quality when slaughtered.

It is customary for the Smithfield club to have an annual show of fat stock, wherein all the races and breeds of Great Britain are exhibited and compete for prizes. The competition is generally pretty close, and the cattle of the best quality. We saw a brief sketch of the show of the Middle County Association and the Smithfield show held last November, given by Bro. Howard in the Boston Cultivator, which we have read with a good deal of interest.

We find that the Galloways held high place among the lords of the barnyard at those shows. At the Middle County show held at Birmingham, the gold medal for the best "cow or heifer" was given to a Galloway, bred by the Duke of Buccleugh, and owned by Mr. C. M. C. of Aberdeen, Scotland. This same Galloway was also awarded the silver cup as "the best of all the cattle" without regard to breed.

At the Smithfield club show, the same Galloway heifer was again exhibited. In this show the cattle are classed into different breeds, and prizes offered for the best in each class, and also a prize for the best in all the classes. In this show the heifer was put second to a Short-horn cow which she had beaten at Birmingham. Of course this raised a storm, and the *Mark Lane Express* which exposed the case of the Galloway, describing her, says—"not only is her form perfect, back, rib, shoulder point, breast-end, hip, loin, flank and rump, but her thigh and twist are wonderful, the rounds of beef full and heavy to the very hocks; her head is beautiful, exactly characteristic of the breed, (race), her coat what it should be, and she handles like what she is, a magnificent feeder, of a quality worth something to the butcher, and calculated to make the epicure smack his lips. In proportion to her symmetrical figure elsewhere, her girth forms her point; but even this is eight feet nine inches at the age of four years and ten months. While the girth of the Short-horn cow a year older was two inches less. It is stated that there were other Galloways at the show which were also very fine specimens of the Scotch cattle. A Galloway also belonging to Mr. C. M. C. of Aberdeen, four years and eight months old, girthed nine feet five inches. What think you now of the little Galloways?"

Get up the Plaster.

Plaster is now an almost indispensable article on the farm, and being a heavy substance, those who do not live near the mill where it is ground, or the depot where it is sold, will find it good policy to avail themselves of the facilities which good sledding gives them to haul home their year's supply.

One of our friends, formerly publisher of the *Maine Farmer*, is now engaged grinding up a good supply of farmers' use at his mill on Bond Brook in this city. His prices are very reasonable, and the material being ground exhibits the characteristics of being of an excellent quality.

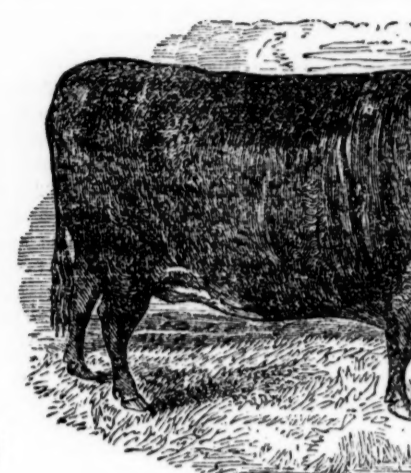
We have thought that at the present low price of the article, it would be a profitable investment for farmers to scatter it over their old, but rough pastures early in the spring. There are a great many pastures that have been cropped for a long series of years, and are becoming somewhat exhausted, but they are so rough and hilly that they cannot in any way be plowed so as to receive amelioration by common cultivation. Their improvement can only be brought about by the top-dressing of them with some of the fertilizers now in use, such as plaster, or guano, or bonedust, and the like. Plaster being the cheapest and most abundant of these substances, should be used liberally whenever there is any reasonable prospect of its being useful.

We are aware that there are some soils, upon which plaster appears to have no very marked action whatever, when used as a fertilizer for grain or common farm crops. But we do not recollect of ever having applied it on pastures and grounds where white clover was found but what it evidently improved the appearance of the grass—if grass it may be called, which is, technically speaking, not a grass. It has always appeared to have some specific action on this species of forage plant. Now the white clover is a native of our fields, and is withal one of our best pasture plants, and if we are right in our position as to the effect of plaster upon it, there is hardly a pasture in Maine that would not be benefited by a liberal application of plaster of Paris to it. Even a couple of hundred pounds of plaster to an acre have many instances, given strong evidence of great benefit arising from the application of it. In such cases a ton would supply improvement to ten acres, and surely this would be a very economical mode of increasing the fertility of worn-out pastures.

It has been thought that some of the many of our decaying or barren orchards would be highly benefited by a liberal supply of plaster scattered about their roots, and even scattered over the leaves and limbs during a wet season. How this may be we have no means of knowing at present. We know, however, that plaster forms some portion of the ash of the apple tree and apples, and it is reasonable to infer that a regular supply of it is needed in the soil of an orchard, and if it becomes exhausted, the trees and their fruits would fail. For these reasons we repeat the advice to get up the plaster.

Meteorological.

We are indebted to Mr. Geo. E. Brackett, of Belfast, for the record of Meteorological Observations for 1861, which will be found in this paper.



Galloway Cattle.

Meteorological.

Jan.		Feb.		March.		April.		May.		June.		July.		Aug.		Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.		Annual.		1860.	
Jan. 14 to 23, 1861. Feb. 14 to 23, 1861. March 14 to 23, 1861. April 14 to 23, 1861. May 14 to 23, 1861. June 14 to 23, 1861. July 14 to 23, 1861. Aug. 14 to 23, 1861. Sept. 14 to 23, 1861. Oct. 14 to 23, 1861. Nov. 14 to 23, 1861. Dec. 14 to 23, 1861.																											
Monthly means.																											
Highest degree, 43.1																											
Lowest degree, 22.4																											
Range, 20.7																											
Rain, 4.9																											
Thunder, 0.0																											
Fog, 0.0																											
Clear days, 14																											
Partly clear days, 14																											
Rainy days, 14																											
Total number of days, 31																											
North-east, 11																											
South-east, 11																											
South-west, 11																											
West, 11																											
Prevalence, 11																											
Four days, 23																											
Overcast days, 23																											
Rain and snow, 23																											
Total number, 23																											

Farmer's condition		after		the		table,		the		pen		dozing		not		keep		the		comfort		out.		W.		campaign		is		not		the		experience		many		pr		not		take		some		of		the		work		by		the		whole		year		better		out		his		work		the		meadow		fence,		good		and		brush,		his		guns		for		the		summer.		and		loss.		He		running		year,		is		more		made		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the		the	
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THE MAINE FARMER: AN

AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY

NEWSPAPER.

Maine Legislature.

TUESDAY, JAN. 14.

Greatest Telegraphic News.

GREAT FIGHT IN KENTUCKY.

REBEL GEN. ZOLICOFFER KILLED.

The Rebels Defeated with Great Loss.

FORCE OF THE ENEMY ON THE POTOMAC.

SECRETARY STANTON ENTERS UPON HIS DUTIES.

Secretary Seward to the Russian Government.

SUCCESSFUL RECONNOISSANCE OF GEN. GRANT.

Reported Evacuation of Manassas.

CINCINNATI, 20th.

There was a battle at Somerset, Kentucky, on Saturday, between Generals

Schofield and Zolicofer's forces, lasting from

early morning until dark. Zolicofer was killed,

and his forces entirely defeated. Loss heavy on

both sides.

LOUISVILLE, 20th.

Gen. Thomas telegraphed to

Headquarters, that on Friday night Zolicofer

came to his encampment, and attacked him at

six o'clock came up to his encampment, and at

tacked him at six o'clock Saturday morning, near

Webb's Cross Roads, in the vicinity of Somerset,

At half past five o'clock, on Saturday, P. M.,

Zolicofer and Bailey Peyton had been killed,

and the rebels were in full retreat to their en-

trenchments at Mill Springs, with the Federals

in full pursuit. No further particulars regard-

ing losses on either side.

The Lexington correspondent of the Commer-

cial, gives the following account of Saturday's

battle. Gen. Zolicofer, learning that the Feder-

al forces had appeared in his rear, marched out

of his intrenchment at three o'clock Saturday

morning and attacked Gen. Schofield in camp.

The battle was a severe one, and the rebels

lost heavily. The battle was fought in the

vicinity of Somerset, and the rebels were

entirely defeated. The loss on the rebel side

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THE REBELS.

FEDERAL.

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN

AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY

NEWSPAPER.

Maine Legislature.

TUESDAY, JAN. 14.

Greatest Telegraphic News.

GREAT FIGHT IN KENTUCKY.

REBEL GEN. ZOLICOFFER KILLED.

The Rebels Defeated with Great Loss.

FORCE OF THE ENEMY ON THE POTOMAC.

SECRETARY STANTON ENTERS UPON HIS DUTIES.

Secretary Seward to the Russian Government.

SUCCESSFUL RECONNOISSANCE OF GEN. GRANT.

Reported Evacuation of Manassas.

CINCINNATI, 20th.

There was a battle at Somerset, Kentucky, on Saturday, between Generals

Schofield and Zolicofer's forces, lasting from

early morning until dark. Zolicofer was killed,

and his forces entirely defeated. Loss heavy on

both sides.

LOUISVILLE, 20th.

Gen. Thomas telegraphed to

Headquarters, that on Friday night Zolicofer

came to his encampment, and attacked him at

six o'clock came up to his encampment, and at

tacked him at six o'clock Saturday morning, near

Webb's Cross Roads, in the vicinity of Somerset,

At half past five o'clock, on Saturday, P. M.,

Zolicofer and Bailey Peyton had been killed,

and the rebels were in full retreat to their en-

trenchments at Mill Springs, with the Federals

in full pursuit. No further particulars regard-

ing losses on either side.

The Lexington correspondent of the Commer-

cial, gives the following account of Saturday's

battle. Gen. Zolicofer, learning that the Feder-

al forces had appeared in his rear, marched out

of his intrenchment at three o'clock Saturday

morning and attacked Gen. Schofield in camp.

The battle was a severe one, and the rebels

lost heavily. The battle was fought in the

vicinity of Somerset, and the rebels were

entirely defeated. The loss on the rebel side

was very heavy. Gen. Zolicofer was killed,

and his forces were in full retreat to their en-

trenchments at Mill Springs, with the Federals</

